

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 DHA-02 /126 W

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R 022339Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1365

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

HICOMTERPACIS UNN

UNCLAS USUN 5853

DEPT PASS OMSN AND DOTA

HICOM PASS TO STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, UR, US, TQ

SUBJ: US RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE SOVIET UNION ON THE
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (TT) AND
SOVIET REPLY

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE US RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE SOVIET
UNION ON THE TT MADE BY US DELOFF SOBER IN PLENARY ON
DECEMBER 2, 1976.

2. TEXT OF STATEMENT:

UUOTE: BEGIN TEXT.

PRESS RELEASE USUN-174(76)
DECEMBER 2, 1976

STATEMENT BY SIDNEY SOBER UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN
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PLENARY, IN RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE, ON

THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, DECEMBER 2, 1976.

IN TUESDAY'S SESSION THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE REFERRED TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IN A STATEMENT AS INACCURATE AS IT WAS OFFENSIVE. AS AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD BE AS WELL INFORMED AS ANY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT, UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, OF MICRONESIA AS A STRATEGIC TRUST TERRITORY -- THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND. ARTICLE 5 OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, WHICH THE SOVIET UNION JOINED IN APPROVING, SPECIFICALLY ENTITLES THE STATIONING OF TROOPS IN MICRONESIA TO ENSURE THAT THE STRATEGIC TRUST TERRITORY PLAY ITS PART IN THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY UNDER THE CHARTER.

MY DELEGATION HAS NO INTENTION OF REPLYING IN KIND TO THE BASELESS RHETORIC OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT. WE TEND TO BELIEVE THE STATEMENT REFLECTED SOVIET EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE RECENT DEBATE IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. AS WE OBSERVED AT THAT TIME, THE SOVIET UNION HAS EVERY REASON TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT ITS RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE UNITED STATES' RECORD ON SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE TERRITORIES UNDER ITS JURISDICTION IS CLEAR FOR ALL TO SEE. ONE TERRITORY OVER WHICH THE UNITED STATES EXERCISED JURISDICTION IN THIS CENTURY HAS EVOLVED TO INDEPENDENCE. OTHERS HAVE COME TO STATEHOOD IN OUR UNION. ANOTHER ENJOYS COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND OTHERS ALSO ELECT THEIR GOVERNORS AND LEGISLATURES IN FREE AND REGULAR ELECTIONS IN ACCORD WITH THEIR PREFERENCE. THE UNITED STATES CAME TO ITS OWN INDEPENDENCE FROM COLONIAL STATUS. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT A COLONIAL NATION, AND IT DOES NOT INTEND TO BECOME ONE.

BUT WHAT OF THE SOVIET UNION'S RECORD IN THIS REGARD? PERHAPS A LOOK AND A QUESTION OR TWO WOULD BE INSTRUCTIVE. NO POWER IN HISTORY HAS SHOWN A MORE RAVENOUS APPETITE FOR FOREIGN TERRITORY THAN THE SOVIET UNION. ASK ANYONE OF NUMEROUS COUNTRIES, FROM THE FAR NORTH OF EUROPE TO THE FAR EAST OF ASIA.

FOR INSTANCE, THE UNITED STATES HAS WITHDRAWN FROM VARIOUS PACIFIC ISLANDS WHICH IT OCCUPIED AS RESULT OF WORLD WAR II
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OPERATIONS. CAN THE SOVIET UNION SAY THE SAME? IN THE EUROPEAN AREA, AS MERELY ONE EXAMPLE, LET IT NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT IN 1940 THE SOVIET UNION TOOK OVER BY MILITARY FORCE THE BALTIC STATES, ITS INDEPENDENT NEIGHBORS LATVIA, ESTONIA AND LITHUANIA. THE SOVIET UNION STILL HOLDS THOSE FORMERLY FREE NATIONS IN ITS GRASP AND DENIES THEM BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. LACK OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS ONLY ONE THAT MIGHT BE EMPHASIZED. MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO ASK A SIMPLE QUESTION: DOES THE SOVIET UNION

INTEND TO HOLD THESE FORMERLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES FOROVER
MORE?

OR WILL THE LONG FINGER OF HISTORY, WHICH PREIDES OVER
HUMAN AFFAIRS WITH CONSIDERABLE IMPARTIALITY, CALL THE SOVIET
UNION TO ACCOUNT ONE OF THESE DAYS?

END TEXT. UNQUOTE.

3. FOLLOWING THE US STATEMENT, SOVIET DEPUTY PERM REP
KHARLAMOV REPLIED STATING THAT IGNORANCE CANNOT BE CONSIDERED
AS PROOF OF ANYTHING, EVEN WHEN EXPRESSED BY THE US.
HE CONTINUED THAT THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES DID NOT WARRANT SUCH POLEMICS. KHARLAMOV
SAID THAT THE US REPRESENTATIVE WAS NOT AWARE OF
THE FACTS OF BALTIC HISTORY AND SUGGESTED HE
READ SOME BASIC TEXTS ON IT. ADDING THAT THE
MATTER PERTAINED ONLY TO THE SOVIET UNION, HE
DECLARED HE WOULD NOT ANSWER US QUESTIONS.

4. TURNING TO US DELOFF'S STATEMENTS ON THE TT,
KHARLAMOV STATED THAT A REVIEW OF THE PERTINENT ARTICLES
OF THE CHARTER WILL REVEAL THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNDERSTOOD
THAT THE TERRITORY MUST EVENTUALLY GAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE.
KHARLAMOV ALSO REGRETTED THE DECISION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL NOT TO REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE TT AND
THE "INAPPROPRIATE" REMOVAL OF THE TT FROM THE GA'S AGENDA.

5. KHARLAMOV ALSO REPLIED TO A BRIEF UK REPLY TO
SOVIETS, IN UK GENERAL DECOLONIZATION STATEMENT, BY REFERRING
TO SECTIONS DEALING WITH TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF
THE TT IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 REPORT. (UK MISOFF HAD
SUGGESTED THAT SOVIETS READ THE COMMITTEE OF 24
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REPORT ON THE TT AND DEFENDED THE IMPARTIAL NATURE
OF THE MARIANAS PLEBISCITE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A "FREE
ACT OF POPULAR CONSULTATION," WITNESSED BY UK CHARGE MURRAY.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, TRUSTEESHIPS (UN), SELFDETERMINATION, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN05853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-1164
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761277/aaaacoqr.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE SOVIET UNION ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (TT) AND SOVIET REPLY
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, UR, US, TQ, UNGA, (SOBER, SIDNEY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006